

Serial No. 09/771,459
Docket No. 595-021PA (KIL021PA)

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 25 (previously added): A method of distributing performance data concerning a plurality of subjects from a distribution site to a user site, the method comprising:
storing gathered performance data concerning each of the subjects in a central database, wherein the storing step comprises storing the gathered data to form a contiguous sequential block of historical data for each subject; and
on request from the user, providing a stream of historical data from the blocks in the central database such that a ticker tape of a plurality of graphical historical data charts can be displayed at the user's site, automatically and without user interaction.

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Claim 26 (previously added): A method according to Claim 25, wherein the stream of historical data is provided as a stream of graphical data.

Claim 27 (previously added): A method according to Claim 25, wherein a rate of generation of the graphical historical data charts corresponds to the speed of movement of the ticker tape displayed at the user's site.

Claim 28 (previously added): A method according to Claim 25, wherein the storing step comprises storing the gathered performance data in the historical data blocks such that each block is partitioned according to predetermined different time periods.

Claim 29 (previously added): A method according to Claim 28, wherein the historical data blocks are each partitioned in daily, weekly, monthly and yearly time periods.

Claim 30 (previously added): A method according to Claim 25, further comprising gathering performance data at a central site and subsequently updating the distribution site with the gathered data.

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Claim 31 (previously added): A method according to Claim 30, wherein the gathering step comprises downloading performance data from a plurality of electronic data vendors where two or more data vendors have different data distribution protocols, and for each data vendor having a different data distribution protocol, the method further comprises implementing an appropriate communications protocol for downloading performance data from each data vendor.

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Claim 32 (currently amended): A method according to Claim ~~30~~ 31, wherein the gathering step comprises consolidating, integrating and reformatting gathered performance data from the plurality of data vendors.

Claim 33 (previously added): A method according to Claim 25, wherein the providing step is initiated by a data request from the user.

Claim 34 (previously added): A method according to Claim 33, wherein the request includes identity information identifying the user, and the method further comprises accessing a user configuration file describing a required data configuration for the identified user, or for a newly identified user, creating a new user configuration file set to a default configuration.

Claim 35 (previously added): A method according to Claim 34, wherein the communications network is the Internet and the identity information comprises a cookie file initially sent to the user.

Claim 36 (previously added): A method according to Claim 34, further comprises storing the user configuration files and identity information in a relational customer database and accessing the same using Structured Query Language.

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Claim 37 (previously added): A method according to Claim 25, wherein the providing step further comprises sending a user configuration file to its user together with a data handling function arranged to present to the user the historical data in accordance with the user configuration file.

Claim 38 (previously added): A method according to Claim 37, wherein the communications network is the Internet and the data handling function comprises an applet.

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Claim 39 (previously added): A method according to Claim 37, wherein the data handling function configures a user's screen according to the information in the configuration data file and requests specific historical data from the central database for immediate display.

Claim 40 (previously added): A method according to Claim 39, wherein the providing step comprises only supplying specifically requested historical data.

Claim 41 (previously added): A method according to Claim 37, further comprising using the data handling function to arrange the historical data into charts and to display simultaneously a plurality of charts arranged as an endless stream of moving graphical images forming a ticker tape on a user's screen.

Claim 42 (previously added): A method according to Claim 39, further comprising using the data handling function to arrange the historical data into charts and to display simultaneously a plurality of charts arranged as an endless stream of moving graphical images forming a ticker tape on a user's screen.

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Claim 43 (previously added): A method according to Claim 41, wherein the step of using the handling function comprises configuring the user's screen to control the amount and type of historical data to be displayed.

Claim 44 (previously added): A method according to Claim 25, wherein the storing step is carried out on a daily basis.

Claim 45 (previously added): A method according to Claim 34, wherein the providing step further comprises sending a user configuration file to its user together with a data handling function arranged to present to the user the historical data in accordance with the user configuration file.

Claim 46 (previously added): A method according to Claim 45, wherein the communications network is the Internet and the data handling function comprises an applet.

Claim 47 (previously added): A method according to Claim 45, wherein the data handling function configures a user's screen according to the information in the configuration data file and requests specific historical data from the central database for immediate display.

Claim 48 (previously added): A method according to Claim 47, wherein the providing step comprises only supplying specifically requested historical data.

Claim 49 (previously added): A method according to Claim 45, further comprising using the data handling function to arrange the historical data into charts and to display simultaneously a plurality of charts arranged as an endless stream of moving graphical images forming a ticker tape on a user's screen.

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Claim 50 (previously added): A method according to Claim 47, further comprising using the data handling function to arrange the historical data into charts and to display simultaneously a plurality of charts arranged as an endless stream of moving graphical images forming a ticker tape on a user's screen.

Claim 51 (previously added): A method according to Claim 49, wherein the step of using the handling function comprises configuring the user's screen to control the amount and type of historical data to be displayed.

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Claim 52 (previously added): A system for distributing performance data concerning a plurality of subjects from a distribution site to a user site, the system comprising:
a central database of performance data relating to each of the plurality of subjects,
storing means for storing gathered performance data concerning each of the subjects in the central database, the storing means being arranged to store the data to form a contiguous sequential block of historical data for each subject; and
read out means arranged to provide, on request from the user, a stream of historical data from the blocks in the central database such that a ticker tape of a plurality of graphical historical data charts can be displayed at the user's site, automatically and without user interaction.

Claim 53 (previously added): A configurable ticker tape interface for providing performance data regarding a plurality of subjects stored in a remote database, the ticker tape interface being arranged to be configurable by the user to specify a subset of the plurality of subjects, to obtain current performance data and historical data from the remote database regarding the selected subset of subjects, and to generate user-controlled movable icons of the ticker tape interface, each icon representing the current performance data and historical data for selected subject in a graphical format.

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Claim 54 (previously added): A graphical user interface comprising:

processing means for obtaining updated information from a distribution database regarding a plurality of subjects and processing the obtained information to display a moving set of graphical images, each image representing current performance data and historical data for a given subject; and

selecting means for creating a user selection, the selecting means being arranged to configure the processing means to obtain information for a selection of the plurality of subjects stored in the distribution database.

Claim 55 (previously added): A graphical user interface according to Claim 54, further comprising selection means, operable by the user, for selecting a time period of historical data, smaller than that stored in the distribution database for a given subject, which is to be displayed in the set of graphical images.

Claim 56 (previously added): A graphical user interface according to Claim 54, further comprising control means, operable by the user, for altering the movement of the set of graphical images.